

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1       A system and method for automatically answering a call from a calling party to a  
2       called party that originates via the Internet, includes and involves a data storage  
3       system and processor that is coupled to the data storage system. The processor  
4       is operative to initiate an automated call answering service in response to an  
5       Internet telephony call from the calling party which is intended to be received by  
6       the called party, to receive a message from the calling party via the Internet in  
7       accordance with the automated call answering service, and to store the message  
8       in the data storage system for processing by the processor in accordance with  
9       the automated call answering service.